



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



For immediate release:
May 28, 2008-05-27

Contact person: Svetlana Shigai
Program Support Officer
USAID Collaborative Development Initiative implemented by Mercy Corps
Tel.: 996 555 42 22 52

PRESS RELEASE

Collaborative Development Initiative Assists Nookan Communities to Use Water Rationally

On May 14, 2008, Mercy Corps held an opening ceremony of the Chute Passageway project in Kyla village, Mombekovo rural council. Representatives from the local government, USAID, public organizations and local community members participated in the event. The project was implemented by the USAID-funded Collaborative Development Initiative program.

As much as 40 percent of all Central Asia's water resources are concentrated in Kyrgyzstan. However, poor infrastructure makes it difficult for communities to use this asset, depriving people of economic benefits and deteriorating relationships between neighbors.



USAID/CAR Regional Mission Director William Frej (left) and Head of the Mombekovo Local Government Tashpolot Sultanov (far left) are cutting the ribbon at the Chute Passageway Project



For the last several years, water has not been rationally distributed between Nookan's two irrigation canals. The uphill Kyla canal is often too full in the springtime while the downhill Druzhba canal has almost no water at all. The situation was creating flooding for downstream households and leaving farmers from neighboring communities without much-needed irrigation water. CDI assisted by constructing a chute passageway that transfers excessive water from one canal to another and organizing a two and a half-day training in rational water consumption, thereby solving the problem of flooding, assisting 63 households to increase their harvests, and reducing considerable tension over water.

The local government mobilized and informed people of the project as well as contributed labor and materials. The chute passageway also offers an opportunity for the local government to rent out 18 hectares of arable land that had not been used due to water scarcity and therefore have additional income for the municipal budget.

The CDI Chute Passageway project helps 63 households to increase yields and reduce tension over water among villagers of Nookan raion

Collaborating with key stakeholders including local government officials and community leaders, CDI is addressing the most relevant communities' issues, pursuing the goal of peaceful change through economic development in southern Kyrgyzstan.

The project is funded by USAID and became possible thanks to assistance coming from the American people. Since 1992, USAID has provided assistance valued at about \$400 million to support economic growth, agriculture, energy, health, and education systems and the development of democratic institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mercy Corps is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization, working in Kyrgyzstan for more than 14 years and supporting infrastructure, social and economic development with the support and collaboration of local authorities.

Collaborative Development Initiative is a three-year program (2005-2008), implemented by Mercy Corps and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, on behalf of the American people. The program aims to enable citizens and leaders in Kyrgyzstan to effectively address and peacefully manage conflict and tensions through a focus on community-driven local economic development.